



Dean A. Lerner, Director

How to Improve the Lives of Depressed Older Adults

IOWA CITY (September 24, 2007) – The University of Iowa College of Nursing and the Iowa Geriatric Education Center is developing Depression Training to Promote Nurses as Advocates for Older Adults. The training program will be released on a CD-ROM in the spring of 2008, and has the potential to immediately affect the care for, and quality of life of, older adults.

This evidence-based training program targets registered nurses (RNs) who are employed in diverse health care settings and maximizes their roles as advocates in the identification and treatment of late life depression. Lessons in the training program will focus on identification of symptoms, application of screening tools, implementation of supportive nursing interventions with appropriate referral, and monitoring of treatment outcomes. The CD program is approved for four hours of nursing continuing education and may be used by RNs to help train ancillary staff.

The CD training program is being made available statewide at no cost due to funding from the Wellmark Foundation. However, only 800 copies will be distributed on a first come-first served basis so it is important that copies be reserved no later than Monday, October 1st.

In order to receive a free copy of CD training program, registration must be sent to the Iowa Geriatric Education Center at geriatric-education@uiowa.edu. Be sure to include your name and business name and business telephone number. In the subject line of the e-mail, please enter the type of your facility, i.e. nursing facility, assisted living program, home health agency, hospital, or hospice program.

Staff at the Geriatric Education Center would appreciate feedback regarding the CD training program. Questions or comments regarding the CD training program should be submitted to staff at the Geriatric Education Center, which also asks that users provide feedback on the effectiveness of the training.

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